

**Cliff Slater**

# **honolulutraffic.com**

**Seeking cost effective ways to improve traffic congestion in Honolulu**

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Mr. Ron Fisher

Director, FTA Office of Planning Innovation and Analysis

Federal Transit Administration

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20590

By e-mail and regular mail

[Ron.fisher@fta.dot.gov](mailto:Ron.fisher@fta.dot.gov)

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Various Honolulu government officials have been lying to the public about the proposed rail (fixed guideway) transit system and we feel the need to bring this to your attention and request specific remedies. Our organization has posted a video on our web site, [Honolulutraffic.com](http://Honolulutraffic.com), documenting 21 lies by City Councilman Gary Okino and transit project manager, Toru Hamayasu, made earlier this month on a one-hour PBS-Hawaii Island Insight television show.

We are requesting the following action from your office:

- Confirm that inaccurate statements are being made by the city.
- Instruct the city to cease making false claims and bogus comparisons.
- Withhold all further federal funding for any Preliminary Engineering until the technology question is settled and EIS is completed.
- Call a halt to the TOD (Transit Oriented Development) sessions now being conducted
- Instruct the city to conduct an EIS that includes an honest study of HOT Lanes.
- Insist that the mitigation of traffic congestion (a major federal mandate) is taken seriously by the City.

We are being swindled by our own government. We are complaining to the FTA because you should know that the city administration is lying, trying to fool the public with false information and recklessly proceeding with a project that in all likelihood will never be fully completed, wasting huge amounts of taxpayer money. Tragically, much more effective alternatives are ignored, especially HOT Lanes (High Occupancy and Toll Lanes), which would provide true solutions at a fraction of the cost, with less disruption of the environment.

Our position is that we should build a new elevated structure for HOT lanes from the Leeward side that would be used by a mix of express buses and carpools that ride free,

along with some toll-paying automobiles. The city has consistently failed to study HOT Lanes as an alternative, despite their many advantages, which include lower costs lower travel times which are likely to attract many more users to express buses than metro rail that stops every mile. This planner duo, Okino and Hamayasu, represents the city's 35-year history to resurrect a defunct rail project for Honolulu at more and greater expense to taxpayers.

The new 40-minute video, which plays on the web in streaming format and is enclosed here as a DVD, features statements from Okino and Hamayasu followed by rebuttals from members of honolulutraffic.com. For too long, the public has been getting only one side of the story from the city administration, which is pushing a rail system on us without properly considering alternatives. Our new video provides some balance to help educate the public about this critical issue.

The planning being conducted at this time by the city is backwards. City planners are doing Preliminary Engineering before the Environment Impact Statement has been done, and they are conducting community workshops about TOD, Transit Oriented Development, even though they have not selected the transit technology yet. If bus technology is chosen for the Fixed Guideway there would be no train stations and no need for forced high-density development near the line, as is currently being considered in the city's meetings.

A detailed list and analysis of the 21 lies is attached to this letter. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Many thanks for your kind attention.

Best regards,

Dennis Callan  
Cliff Slater  
Panos Prevedouros  
Dale Evans  
John Brizdle

Attached: 21 City Lies about Rail Transit and DVD of the PBS-Hawaii Island Insight TV show.